

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and are not rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. **If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.**

The applicants will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2, 3, 14-21, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, claim 2 was found to include terms lacking proper antecedent basis. Claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 were found to be generally narrative and indefinite. Claims 16-21, 24 and 25 were apparently rejected due solely to their dependence.

Claim 2 has been canceled. However, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of originally filed claim 2 in a definite form which corresponds to current

US practice. Claims 3, 14, 15 and 25 have been amended to be definite and to be in a form that corresponds to current US practice.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-10, 22, 23 and 26-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,134,710 ("the Atherton patent"). The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection.

Since claims 1 and 23 have been amended to include the features of canceled claims 2 and 24, these claims are not anticipated by the Atherton patent. Since claims 4-10 and 22 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and since claims 26-32 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 23, these claims are similarly not anticipated.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11, 12, 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Atherton patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,524,078 ("the Brooks patent"). The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection.

The purported teaching of the Brooks patent does not teach or suggest the patentable features of claims 1 and 23, as amended. Since claims 11 and 12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and since claims 33 and 34 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim

23, these claims are not rendered obvious by the Atherton and Brooks patents.

Claims 13 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Atherton patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,159,876 ("the Olin patent"). The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection.

The purported teaching of the Olin patent does not teach or suggest the patentable features of claims 1 and 23, as amended. Since claim 13 depends from claim 1, and since claim 35 depends from claim 23, these claims are not rendered obvious by the Atherton and Olin patents.

Claims 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Atherton patent. The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection.

The Examiner contends that the differences between the Atherton patent and the claimed invention merely involve determining optimum values. However, in the Atherton patent, blades are connected to a horizontal shaft at one edge. Thus, the shaft does not cross the blade to define first and second sections (See claim 14, as amended.), let alone define the particular relationships between those first and second sections. Accordingly, claims 15-20 are not rendered obvious by the Atherton patent for at least this reason.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Atherton patent in view of

U.S. Patent No. 4,346,305 ("the White patent"). The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection.

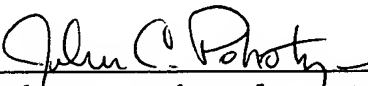
The purported teaching of the Olin patent does not teach or suggest the patentable features of claim 14, as amended. Since claim 21 depends from claim 14, this claim is not rendered obvious by the Atherton and White patents.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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John C. Pokotylo, Attorney
Reg. No. 36,242
Tel.: (732) 542-9070

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John C. Pokotylo

36,242
Reg. No.